

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /080 W

----- 122501

R 111211Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1946

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0299

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

TEHRAN ALSO FOR KHORRAMSHAHR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ENRG, BA

SUBJECT : ZAPATA TO DRILL EXPLORATORY WELL IN
BAHRAIN OFF-SHORE TERRITORY

1. MINISTRY FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY OIL DIRECTOR TOLD
EMBASSY OFFICER THAT ZAPATA OIL PLANS DRILL EXPLORATORY WELL
IN SUPERIOR OIL CONCESSION AREA NEXT MONTH. AREA, WHICH
EXTENDS FROM APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MILES NORTH OF BAHRAIN OUT
TO CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY (CSB), WAS SURVEYED IN 1970-1971
BY SUPERIOR. IN 1972 SUPERIOR DRILLED ONE WELL, ALMOST IN
CENTER OF AREA, WHICH WAS CONSIDERED GEOLOGICALLY "PROMISING"
WITH CORRECT POROSITY AND PENETRABILITY, BUT NO OIL.

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2. SUPERIOR THEN ASKED GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN PERMISSION TO RECRUIT PARTNER TO SHARE RISK AND YIELD, AND WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE ZAPATA AND CITIES SERVICE AS PARTNERS. ACCORDING OIL DIRECTOR, DRILLING WOULD HAVE STARTED SOONER, BUT WAS DELAYED ONLY BECAUSE OF NON-AVAILABILITY DRILLING RIG. NEW LOCATION, CLOSER TO CSB, ALSO HAS PROPER GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

3. OIL DIRECTOR NOTED THAT CONCESSION MADE NO MENTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF ANY OIL FOUND. IF LOCATED, DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE WORKED OUT LATER "IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES IN EFFECT AT THAT TIME IN THE AREA".

4. MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT HAS CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT AREA IN QUESTION IS IN NO WAY SUBJECT TO MEDIAN LINE OR OTHER TERRITORIAL DISPUTES AND SPECIFICALLY DOES NOT INVOLVE QUESTION OF WHO OWNS WHAT BETWEEN BAHRAIN AND QATAR.
TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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